

U.S.C. 1557), but including merchandise entered for transportation in bond or for exportation) which remains in Customs custody for 6 months from the date of importation or a lesser period for special merchandise as provided by § 127.28 (c), (d), and (h), and without all estimated duties and storage or other charges having been paid, shall be considered unclaimed and abandoned.

(Sec. 491, 46 Stat. 726, as amended; (19 U.S.C. 1491))

[T.D. 79-221, 44 FR 46814, Aug. 9, 1979, as amended by T.D. 98-74, 63 FR 51290, Sept. 25, 1998]

§ 127.12 Abandoned merchandise.

(a) *Involuntarily abandoned merchandise.* The following shall be considered to be involuntarily abandoned merchandise:

(1) Articles entered for a trade fair under the provisions of section 3 of the Trade Fair Act of 1959 (19 U.S.C. 1752), which are still in Customs custody at the expiration of 3 months after the closing date of the fair for which they were entered. (See § 147.47 of this chapter.)

(2) Any imported merchandise upon which any duties or charges are unpaid, remaining in a bonded warehouse beyond the 5-year warehouse period.

(b) *Voluntarily abandoned merchandise.* The following merchandise shall be considered to be voluntarily abandoned merchandise and the property of the United States Government:

(1) Merchandise which is taken possession of by the port director at the request of the consignee, or owner or master of the vessel or person in charge of the vehicle in which the merchandise was imported.

(2) Merchandise abandoned by the importer to the United States within 30 days after entry in the case of merchandise not sent to the public stores for examination, or within 30 days after the release of the examination packages or merchandise in the case of merchandise sent to the public stores for examination.

(3) Articles entered for a trade fair under the provisions of section 3 of the Trade Fair Act of 1959 (19 U.S.C. 1752), which have been abandoned to the United States within 3 months of the closing of the fair.

(4) Merchandise in a bonded warehouse abandoned by the consignee within 3 years from the date of original importation. (See subpart D of part 158 of this chapter.)

(Secs. 490, 506, 559, 563, 46 Stat. 726, as amended, 732, as amended, 744, as amended, 746, as amended, sec. 4, 73 Stat. 18; (19 U.S.C. 1490, 1506, 1559, 1563, 1753))

[T.D. 74-114, 39 FR 12092, Apr. 3, 1974, as amended by T.D. 79-221, 44 FR 46814, Aug. 9, 1979]

§ 127.13 Storage of unclaimed and abandoned merchandise.

(a) *Place of storage.* Unclaimed and abandoned merchandise shall be sent under a permit to a class 1 warehouse (public store) or to a suitable warehouse of class 3, 4, or 5 specially designated for the purpose by the port director. If no warehouse of these classes is available, the port director may, with the approval of the Commissioner of Customs, rent suitable premises in a class 2 warehouse. (For permit to discharge unclaimed cargo which is not unladen see § 4.37(f) of this chapter.)

(b) *Payment of storage and expenses.* Storage at the ordinary rates and all other expenses shall be paid by the owner or consignee of the merchandise upon entry thereof. If the goods are sold, such charges shall be paid from the proceeds of the sale to the extent that proceeds are available.

(Sec. 490, 46 Stat. 726, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1490))

§ 127.14 Disposition of merchandise in Customs custody beyond time fixed by law.

(a) *Merchandise subject to sale.* If storage or other charges due the United States have not been paid on merchandise remaining in Customs custody after the expiration of the bond period in the case of merchandise entered for warehouse, or after the expiration of the general order period, as defined in § 127.4, in any other case, even though any duties due have been paid, such merchandise shall be sold as provided for in subpart C of this part unless entered or withdrawn for consumption in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Entry of merchandise subject to sale.* Merchandise subject to sale (except